Request from Indian Leather Productsm Association to reserve Cargo Space in International Airlines for Leather Products

1704. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Leather Products Association has urged Government to make it mandatory for international airlines to reserve cargo space for leather products;

(b) whether it is a fact that the exports of leather products would have been 40 percent higher, had there been adequate freight services;

(c) whether Rs. 2 crores worth of leather products are help up due to flight cancellations; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide Jumbo freight carrier for clearing leather products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) It is reported that the Indian Leather Products Association has, in a Press Release, urged the Government to arrange for reservation of air cargo space for exports. However, no specific representation in this regard has been received by Government. Within the guidelines laid down by the Government, the foreign airlines basically operate on commercial considerations and a system of cargo reservation for any particular product sector does not exist.

(b) and (c) Exporters have pointed out to difficulties in securing air cargo space during the peak season. There has been a baklog in movement of cargo upto varying levels at the different airports in the country. However, no specific instances of loss of export opportunities or of cancellation of export orders has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(d) Air India and foreign airlines are utilising Jumbo aircraft for clearing export consignments including those of leather. Air India has also mounted additional freighters on an ad-hoc basis from April, 1990, to augment the clearance capacity for export cargo including leather and leather products.

Import of Life Saving Medical Equipments

1705. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new import policy relating to life saving medical equipments requiring importers to obtain eligibility certificates for having adequate after-sales service facilities, has resulted in an acute shortage of life saving medical equipments in the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to ease the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) and (b) In order to ensure that there is no difficulty in obtaining eligibility certificate for import of life saving medical equipment, the Chief Medical Officer or Civil Surgeon of a District and the Chief Medical Superintendent of the hospital attached to any recognised medical college have also been notified on the 11th April, 1990 as designated agencies for the purpose of grant of certificate of eligibility for import under Open General Licence of life saving equipment and their spares.

Staff position in JCCIE, Madras

1706. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints were made about the rampant corruption in the Office of JCCIE, Madras at a

meeting of the Federation of Indian Export Organisation held on 2-5-1990 at Madras where Chief Controller of Imports and Exports was also present;

(b) whether the JCCIE officials present there contended that it was due to inadequate staff position; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to augment the staff strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir, the issue was raised by Regional Chairman (FIEO) in the Import-Export Policy Workshop held at Madras on 2-5-1990.

(b) and (c) It was suggested by CCI&E that specific complaints regarding alleged corruption should be brought to Government's notice to enable pointed investigation into the matter and punishing of the guilty persons, if any. It was also mentioned by CCI&E that in order to reduce delays occuring due to the shortage of staff in relation to the increased work-load in the areas of import licensing and disbursement of Cash Assistance, certain proposals for sanctioning of additional staff have been submitted for Government approval. The proposals for staff increase are under Government's examination.

Utilisation of Services of Technical Consultancy Organisations

1707. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government are taking to utilise the services of Technical Consultancy Organisations set up by IDBI, IFCI and ICICI after the formation of SIDBI;

(b) whether it is a fact that these organisations are likely to become sick as they cannot offer services at low cost to SSI units in backward region; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to revive these organisations to enable them to help small entrepreneurs

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANI SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Technics Consultancy Organisations (TCOs) are basically designed to carry out industrial potential surveys and render technics consultancy services for the development of small and medium industries in the respective jurisdictions. Thus, even after formation of SIDBI, services of TCC would be needed by the sponsoring all India financial institutions. TCOs wi also be functionally associated wit SIDBI.

IDBI and other financial institutior have been giving specific assignments 1 TCOs in the fields of surveys, sped; studies, entrepreneurial development programmes etc. In addition, IDBI giving them support towards training < personnel so as to enable them 1 develop necessary expertise in the organisations. The sponsoring institutior have also augmented their share capit over the years. So far as the assignments for the small scale secter industries are concerned, IDBI operating a scheme for subsidising the modernisation and rehabilitatic assignments, under which subsidy is give TCOs. TCOs have also been advised the they should develop an appropria business-mix so as to achieve viability their operations while performing the promotional role.

It has been reported by IDBI that per latest financial results available f< the year ended 31st March, 1989, number of TCOs viz. those in J&l Guwahati, U.P., West Bengal, Gujara Tamilnadu, Haryana, Himachal Prades Maharashtra and Punjab had been able generate cash surpluses. Other TCOs a expected to stabilise their financial position with the development appropriate business-mix and with high business turn-over.